

**Illinois Early Learning Council
Executive Committee Meeting
October 4, 2016, 12:30 PM – 4:30 PM**

Chicago: ISBE Video-teleconference Room (100 W. Randolph St., 14th Floor)

Springfield: ISBE Video-teleconference Room (100 N. 1st St.)

Call: 1-888-806-4788 Access Code: 869-300-8413

Minutes

Chicago: Karen Berman, Tasha Green Cruzat, Gaylord Gieseke, Phyllis Glink, Cornelia Grumman, Dan Harris, Geoff Nagle, Sylvia Puente, Beth Purvis, Diana Rauner, Sara Slaughter, Kathy Stohr, Teri Telan, Josie Yanguas, Maria Whelan

Springfield: Shauna Ejeh, Barb Payne, Cindy Zumwalt

Phone: Sam Aigner-Treworgy, George Davis, Tiffany Gholson, Andrea Palmer, Anna Potere, Elliot Regenstein

I. Welcome and Introduction

Co-chairs Phyllis Glink and Beth Purvis welcomed everyone to the meeting. Beth announced that Cynthia Tate has accepted offer to be the new Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development (GOECD), but unfortunately could not be present at this meeting. Deputy Director, Kathy Stohr, read a message from Tate regarding her excitement about this new role.

Members of the Executive Council took a moment to recognize the work of Reyna Hernandez, in light of her departure from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). Kathy Stohr asked if there was something the Council could do to address this departure. Phyllis proposed to work with Stohr to draft a letter on behalf of the council to ISBE and Superintendent Tony Smith regarding Reyna's work and her departure. This proposal was approved by the Executive Council.

The previous meeting's minutes were approved with the amendment of adding Cindy Zumwalt to Springfield attendance.

II. MIECHV Reauthorization

Anna Potere from the Home Visiting Task Force presented on the MIECHV Reauthorization process. The extension of MIECHV for two more years would allow for a vital expansion of home visiting systems. Illinois is currently considered a model, and this expansion would enable the state to continue this work. The Home Visiting Task Force proposed to request to the council, the first was for approve the sending of a letter requesting reauthorization on behalf of the Early Learning Council, which was unanimously approved. The second was for members of the Early Learning Executive Committee to send letters requesting reauthorization on behalf of the organizations they represent. It was decided that Sam Buck would distribute draft organizational letters through the distribution list so that organization heads could send these letters.

III. Reflections on Last Meeting

Co-Chair Phyllis Glink opened the floor to a discussion about a conversation that had occurred at the last meeting regarding shared vision and decision making between private stakeholders and public agencies. Council Member Sara Slaughter commented that building a good rapport is not a one and done deal, but that it requires work and honest discussion to build that relationship. Co-Chair Beth Purvis discussed how the budget crisis has affected capacity, making it difficult to focus on how to pull in private stakeholders. Council member Kathy Stohr encouraged the group to find a way to pushing a vision forward to support the State during this time of crisis. Glink emphasized that gaining a better understanding of the State's goals will enable private stakeholder to better understand how they can assist the State in moving those goals forward.

IV. Discussion of Agency Priorities and Alignments with ELC –Elizabeth Cole

Elizabeth Cole, a consultant from Graettinger Cole Consulting, facilitated a discussion about agency priorities as a way to help the ELC Executive Committee to set priorities for its structure. She provided some background on the work that has been done thus far, including a survey to the Executive Committee, one-on-one calls with state agencies about their priorities, and now - after having a chance to review and revise these priorities – presenting these to the Executive Committee. Cole encouraged the committee to try to find intersections between the priorities of the State Agencies and the work the ELC and ELC Executive Committee is working on, so that the committees can help bring the work of the State Agencies up.

Barb Payne from the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) presented on IDHS's priorities. She outline their main goals as, pivoting to a target strategy program for the families most in need, looking at the quality programming in a data drive way to be most effective with their work and the resources they have, and introducing quality to annual monitoring and inspection visits. Cole then opened the floor to questions. Members of the Executive Committee discussed defining quality in regards to IDHS's priorities and having a limited budget. The Quality Committee of the ELC, chaired by Dan Harris and Teri Telan, offered to assist IDHS with defining "quality" under current circumstance, and the Access Committee, chaired by George Davis and Maria Whelan, offered to assisted with defining "hard to reach". Payne agreed that this assistance would be helpful to IDHS as they move forward on their priorities.

Cindy Zumwalt from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) presented on ISBE's priorities. She outlined their main priorities as, ensuring quality birth to three programming, including Early Headstart and center based prevention options; getting additional supports for the preschool expansion model; getting better data on early childhood education; working with HeadStart to get Birth to three children into the Student Information System; and creating the Every Student Succeeds Act Illinois State Plan which includes Early Childhood. Cole then opened the floor for questions. Josie Yanguas raised the issue of teacher shortages that greatly affect linguistically and culturally diverse students, and the lack of student pursuing degrees in those areas. Stohr mentioned that the Children's Cabinet recently adopted an Early Childhood Education Workforce Development and that she will make note to include representatives from those hard to reach areas in making up project teams.

V. Break* (10 Min)

VI. Summary and Discussion (20 min) – Beth Purvis

Co-Chairs Beth Purvis and Phyllis Glink decided that the Executive Committee will hold off on having the other agencies report until the next ELC Executive Committee Meeting, in order to make sure there is enough time to have a rich conversation about the Every Student Succeeds Act and Illinois' State Plan.

VII. Committee Updates (10 Minutes)

George Davis and Maria Whelan provided a brief update on the Access Committee. The Committee is on target with its various work plans. Cornelia Grumman was introduced as the new Access Committee Staffer.

Dan Harris and Teri Telan provided a brief update on the Quality Committee. They announced that the first official meeting of the newly reconfigured Quality Committee would be the following day, October 5th, 2016. This meeting would include many reports and presentations focusing on sharing priorities for the Committee.

Karen Berman provided a brief update on the Integration and Alignment Committee. The Integration and Alignment Committee worked with Elizabeth Cole to make sure they were aligned with the goals articulated in the new structure. Shauna Ejeh was announced as the new Co-Chair of the Integration and Alignment Committee

Diana Rauner and Gaylord Gieseke provided a brief update on the Home Visiting Taskforce. The main priority of the Home Visiting Taskforce at the moment is the MIECHV reauthorization letter, which the Council had already been briefed on during this meeting.

Gail Nourse announced that the Grand Victoria Foundation would provide funding for another year for Elizabeth Cole to continue to work with the ELC, but unfortunately would not be able to fund the Committee staffers.

Kathy Stohr provided an update on the Race to the Top grant monitoring visit from Federal Officers. They went on multiple site visits and got a great picture about work that has been done. The Federal Offices had great ideas about the tangible stories that this work has meant for teachers and students throughout the State. A highlight of the visit was seeing preschool expansion sights and innovations in East St. Louis.

VIII. ELC's Role in ESSA (60 minutes)

Co-Chair Beth Purvis excused those who did not wish to stay for the conversation about the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Purvis then provided background on ESSA, the latest reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which was last reauthorized in 2001 as the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Purvis discussed the benefits and set back NCLB; it made the country focus on the needs of all students and changed the way the U.S. looked outputs, but it also set unrealistic expectations and put a lot of control into federal hands. Purvis stated that ESSA put that control

back in the States hands. She then outlined the process that the Illinois State Board has taken in drafting the state plan, including listening tours with community members, looking at data, and working with Partners For Each and Every Child to create a reader's guide for the state plan. She encouraged the Executive Committee to think about the ways it can work to inform ISBE and provide valuable feedback during this process. She then introduced Elliot Regenstein from the Ounce of Prevent to lead this conversation.

Elliot Regenstein explained that thus far they have organized four working groups to track what is in the ISBE documents as well as the work for the P20 subcommittee that are also working on creating recommendation for the ESSA State Plan . Each working group will be making one to two pages of recommendations. The main goal is to get key points and principles together, then give these recommendation to the ELC Executive Committee to edit and approve. The final approved comments will be given to ISBE to review. Regenstein then outlined the four areas of focus: Teacher and Leader Effectiveness, Data Alignment and Accountability, School improvement, Meeting the needs of all Students, and creating guides to districts on how to use Title IV funds. These areas enable the ELC to build recommendations that are durable over the years.

IX. Adjournment

Co-Chair Beth Purvis adjourned the meeting at 3:47 PM.